

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16 and 19-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16, 19, 21-24, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van der Tuijn et al. (US 6,683,886; hereinafter “Tuijn”) in view of Omi et al. (US 6,940,831; hereinafter “Omi”). Applicant traverses the rejection as follows.

As noted above, Applicant herein amends the independent claims consistent with the agreement reached during the telephonic interview between Applicant’s undersigned representative and the Examiner on December 28, 2007, and the follow-up discussions held on January 2, 4, 7 and 8, 2008.

Independent claim 1 now recites, in part:

wherein the controller communicates with the at least one slave device in accordance with the frequency of communication, and

wherein the controller adjusts the frequency of communication after each communication between the controller and the at least one slave device.

Analogous amendments are made herein to independent claims 8 and 15. Applicant submits that the combination of the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest these unique features.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record for at least these reasons. Similarly, Applicant submits that independent claims 8 and 15 are patentable for analogous reasons. Further, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-5, 7, 9,

11-14, 19, 21-24 and 30 are patentable, at least by virtue of their respective dependency on claims 1, 8 and 15.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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